less their thirst for knowledge than their desire to get confirmation of their own faith. The crowds made little response to appeals to armed revolt but never tired of listening to speakers who talked soberly about the situation in Russia, the aspirations of the people, and the inevitable showdown of force between the people and the government.

Gradually the character of the meetings changed. Students disappeared completely from the evening gatherings. The leftist parties asked them to stay away from the overcrowded classrooms in the evening to leave room for the workers and thus contribute to the political, revolutionary education of the masses. A routine developed. Until four or five o'clock, the University was the scene of academic work and academic meetings; in the evening, it belonged to revolutionary crowds that converged from all parts of the city.

The academic administration did not oppose this arrangement. The newly elected president of the University knew that, in the event of a conflict, we would not hesitate to resume the academic strike and close the University.

I somehow became the link between the daytime and evening activities in the University. I got to the University at nine o'clock in the morning. There were academic questions to discuss, memoranda to write, conflicts to settle. Probably the students did not really need the representatives of the leftist parties to handle their academic affairs, but, as long as we did our academic job properly in the morning, we were sure of our grip over the masses of the students and could keep our hands on the University's facilities after dusk.

Almost every evening I also spoke at meetings in other colleges. These were of the same type as at the University, but smaller. Then I went back to the University and seldom left it before one or two o'clock in the morning, after the last meeting ended. I had no time for regular meals and seldom saw my parents, but each night I found on a table near my bed a glass of milk and a large piece of cake—the supper my mother prepared for me.

THE POLITICAL PARTIES

To control the campaign, the Bolsheviks organized a group of thirty or forty "meeting speakers," some with considerable experience and high position in the party hierarchy. These self-styled "generals" proved to be mediocre speakers, however, and some had to withdraw after their first performance. The party put me in charge of the group of regular speakers at University meetings. The core of the group consisted of two University students—Krylenko and me—and